

from periostitis was discovered on the left tibia, on the 19th it disappeared. On the 2d of February, an eruption similar to what had before appeared on the scrotum reappeared; it also went away without the use of medicine. During the months of March, April, and May, his throat could never be considered in a state of health, and exhibited so much variety of symptoms, both as to appearance and pain, as rendered the case inexplicable as it was curious; sometimes when there was no trace of inflammation visible, the pain would be excessive. An erythematous redness was, on the other hand, often suffused over the soft palate, and occasionally an appearance resembling abrasion of the surface, while there were no indications of exacerbation of pain. Sometimes whilst speaking, his voice would suddenly fail, and a paroxysm of cough interrupt his articulation; the cough was hard and unattended by expectoration, he would often commence eating, suffering under extreme torture in every attempt to swallow, and after a few moments he would perform deglutition without the slightest pain. In a word, these symptoms came and went alternately without any assistance being sought from medicine. But this uncertain and precarious state of health could not be borne any longer, and he determined to try the effects of mercury, though contrary to the advice of his friends, and took two grains of calomel daily for four days, when he was seized with a cough, accompanied with some hæmoptoe. The mercury was discontinued immediately, and never resumed: his mouth was made slightly sore by this quantity, his gums became spongy, and his breath foul. All the symptoms gradually and slowly declined, and he is now occasionally visited by the following:—Wandering pain in the hip-joint of the right side, and weakness which prevents exercise on foot to any considerable extent. Some few pale and almost indistinct stains of eruption on his forehead after exercise. Some broad, flat patches of eruption of a scarlet colour, but not always of the same intensity, on the back of the hands: during the last winter the skin on the palms of his hands was hard and horny, and the natural lines appeared like fissures; this has now disappeared. His throat never has been sore since he took the calomel.

#### MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

18. *Atrophy of the Mammaræ produced by Hemlock.*—Professor D'OUTREPONT, of Würzburg, relates some curious cases illustrative of the effects of hemlock in galactirrhæa. The morbid profusion of milk in the breasts, in this complaint is accompanied frequently with hysteria, hectic fever, general emaciation, with extreme dryness of skin, and impairment of the mental functions. Menstruation is suppressed, and the patient becomes sterile, or at least less apt to conceive. The local remedies commonly employed are more or less prejudicial: constitutional treatment is found to be more efficacious. Light purgatives, such as the neutral tartrate of potash in smart doses, with diuretics occasionally, and diaphoretics, are attended with good effect: bitters too, and chalybeate waters taken internally, are much to be recommended. Yet cases occur in which the secretion of milk, continuing after the weaning of a child, becomes extremely difficult to be managed; and *specifics*, in consequence, have been tried by many physicians. Hemlock has been had recourse to in a special manner. Its action on the mammary glands is remarkable; for it not only depresses their functional powers, but, if applied for any length of time, produces a complete atrophy of the mammaræ, to the full extent of rendering them barren in all future pregnancies. This has been already noticed by Professor Benedict, of Breslaw; but two cases of recent occurrence, which M. d'Outrepont adduces, may be briefly adverted to in illustration.

CASE I. An actress of much beauty was troubled for several months after her confinement with the excessive fulness of her bosom, together with a superabundant secretion of milk. All the usual remedies were tried in vain. At length

her physician ventured to prescribe for her a weak infusion of hemlock, which she used for two days. The lactation suddenly stopped, but her breasts wasting away, the lady became very uneasy. Shortly after she became pregnant again, but no symptom of activity about the mammary glands could be perceived. During her confinement there was a slight fulness, and a few drops of milk were elicited; but the symptoms presently ceased for ever.

CASE II. The mother of four fine children, all nursed by herself, had given suck to the youngest for fifteen months. Having weaned it at last, a flow of milk continued to the breasts in such a quantity that the lady actually lost four litres of it, (about 8½ pints,) every day. The fluid was perpetually running from her, and it was necessary to wrap the breasts in large napkins, which had to be constantly changed. The menses were suppressed, and she could no longer become *enceinte*. This state of things continued for four years, during which time every remedy that physicians could devise was made trial of. M. d'Outrepoint, on taking her in hand, found that she was not in the least weakened by the continual drainage. His first object was to restore, if possible, the menses; and in this, fortunately, at the end of five months, he was successful, though the lactation still partially continued. The lady was very impatient, and M. d'O. was induced to try the hemlock; he gave her a grain of the extract three times a day. In seven days the discharge of milk was altogether stopped: the breasts however, were considerably reduced in volume. Her menses came on at their regular period, but on their cessation the galactirrhœa recurred afresh. The lady now wishing to proceed effectually about the work, helped herself to seven grains instead of three per day. The effects were but too soon observable: her breasts became emaciated to such a degree that nothing remained but baggy flaccid skin; menstruation went on regularly enough, but lactation never returned, nor was the lady ever pregnant more.

It may be observed, with reference to the two cases here related, that hemlock seems to produce atrophy of the mammary glands only in women who are suckling, just as ergotted rye tends to produce contraction of the uterus only in women who are in a state of pregnancy.—*Lond. Med. Gaz. from Gem. Zeitsch. für Geurtkunde.*

19. *Dangerous Effects of Inhaling Ipecacuanha.*—A man who was employed for some hours in pulverizing the root of ipecacuanha, being affected with cough and coryza, contrived to inspire or swallow in the course of his work, a considerable quantity of the dust which he raised. Presently after he was seized with vomiting, and a great difficulty of breathing, almost amounting to suffocation. He was bled to ten ounces, and ordered assafoetida, with extract of belladonna. He got better, but in five hours the symptoms recurred more violently than before, attended with a spasmodic stricture of the larynx. M. LÆRIG, *pharmacien*, sensible that tannin precipitated emetine, administered to the patient a decoction of the leaves of *uva ursi*, combined with the extract of rhātany. This was followed by an immediate remission of the worst symptoms. In the course of an hour the man could freely breathe, and was able to go out of doors on the second day; but five days altogether elapsed before he was quite free from dyspnœa.—*Ibid, from Rust's Magazin.*

20. *Medicinal Effect of the Elaterine, the Active Principle of the Elaterium.*—Mr. MORRIES relates, in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal* for April last, the following experiments instituted to ascertain the medicinal properties of the elaterine, the mode of preparing which article will be found in our department of chemistry.

“To one rabbit Mr. M. gave a tenth of a grain in the form of pill, which at the expiration of twelve hours produced little effect, except some tenderness of abdomen. Twenty-four hours after the first dose, he administered a second in solution, and in six hours afterwards the animal appeared in great pain, having laborious breathing and other symptoms of general inflammation. At